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Subject: Batuk Victor of the Ukrainian Mission to the U.N.

Source: RK

Date: 16 October 1969

1. Meeting took place on the corner of 67th St. and Lexington Ave. in New York at 6:00 P.M. and from there Subject and Source proceeded to Madison Square Garden to view the hockey game. After the hockey game they went into a restaurant in Pennsylvania Station for a snack and a few drinks. Meeting lasted untill 11:30 P.M.
2. Subject gave the following information about himself: He is Ukrainian. Finished his studies in Moscow at the Institute for International Relations which took him 5 years. In the Institute he studied English and Swahili, as well as diplomacy. He has been employed by the Soviet Foreign Office since 1962, and has been stationed in India for a while. He is 30 years old, married and his wife is a Russian. They have one daughter and his wife is presently pregnant. Subjects parents lived in Soviet Asia for a long time, but he did not specify where.
3. Subject had read "Internationalism and Russification" by Ivan Dziuba and commented that it was well written, but that Dzuiba placed too much emphasis on the nationality problem in Lenin's writings. Subject considers Dzuiba to be a very brave young man who is really concerned with the welfare of the Ukrainian nation. When asked about Stenchyk and who is he; Subject replied that this is most likely a pseudonym, that he had never heard of Stenchyk before. Subject criticized Stenchyk's booklet attacking Dzuiba by saying that Stenchyk went to the other extreme, placing too much emphasis on Lenins writings on social themes and completely ignoring Lenins statements on the Ukrainian problem. When asked why it took so long for a reply to be written on Dzuiba's book, Subject did not answer, but ventured that Stenchyk, whoever he might be wrote the book because others refused to write it. Source commented that according to him if there was to be still greater repressions of Dzuiba, such as his arrest, this would cause great repercussions not only among Ukrainian youth here in the West, but among the western press as well. Subject did not answer. He did state that Dziuba was free and working in Kiev, and he did not believe that he would be arrested. Subject went on to say that

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both Sinyavsky and Daniel were arrested on charges of sending their manuscripts abroad for publication, but he felt that Dzuiba would not be arrested on such charges.

4. Subject reads Suchasnist frequently, and stated the opinion that he and other members of the Ukrainian SSR mission consider Suchasnist to be the most intellectual and serious publication put out by Ukrainian emigres. However Suchasnist on occasion does print articles which are opinionated and biased against the USSR, he added that Suchasnist is not the only journal to do this, many journals in Kiev are guilty of the same in reverse. Subject mentioned that he knows Boychuk and Rybochak and thinks highly of them as literary figures. He was interested in the discussion in Suchasnist about the translations of Lmkash and regreted that it is impossible at the present for Lmkash to answer, in Suchasnist.

5. Subject did not read the Chornovil Papers, but read all the articles in Svoboda which were reprinted from the Chornovil Papers. He commented that it is sad but true that there are certain circles in the USSR which negate legality and therefore the arrests took place. But the arrests of intellectuals was not limited to the Ukraine, they were Union-wide, and should not be considered as exclusively anti-Ukrainian, but rather anti-democratic. Source gave an opinion that the arrests could have been harsher, but because of the recent attitude of Shelest and the pressure from the Canadian Communist party they were not too severe. Subject commented that Shelest was a Ukrainian and that he is a much better administrator than was Khrushchev, who was a Russian and had been sent "from above". Shelest really cares about the expansion of Ukrainian culture, while previous first secretaries only paid lip service to this problem.

6. Subject was familiar with the trial of the "lawyers group" and mentioned that they were arrested because they had formed an illegal organization. Source argued that this was absurd. They were viewing on the possibility of the Ukrainian SSR separating from the USSR on legal terms, which were stated in the Constitution. This activity could not be viewed as anti-Soviet. Source added that the Communist party in the US is legal, even though it agitates for a change of system. Subject said that the American communist party was being constantly watched by the FBI. Source replied that this was true, that Subject was also under surveillance by the FBI at one time or another, but ^{no} members of the communist party of the US are

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arrested and tried in secret.

7. Subject feels that the nationality problem in the USSR is not solved, and that they have a long way to go. The most important factor is education; After the war there was a lack of a Ukrainian intelligencia which is presently beginning to appear. National consciousness in the Ukraine has greatly increased in the last few years and is always growing. But Russification is evident in many centers of Ukraine. Subject went on to say that 25% of the population of Ukraine is Russian, and this causes problems. In addition to the Russians, there are many Russified Ukrainians.

8. As a poet, Subject said that he has little time to write anything original. Presently he is working on translations from Swahili into Ukrainian, but would like to translate something from English into Ukrainian. Source gave Subject the books "Coordinates, volume one" and "New Poetry number 10". Subject was very pleased to have "Coordinates" but said that he had bought New Poetry but had left it home in Kiev after his last visit there. Subject asked Source where he bought the books. Source replied Arka and Surma bookstores in New York. When asked how he came to be both a poet and a diplomat. Subject replied that he always wanted to help change corrupt systems in the world, and felt that in diplomacy he had a chance to do his part. He had always been interested in poetry, but not enough to go into it very deeply. Subject mentioned that he saw Wira Wowk when she was in Kiev the first time and praised her ability as a poetess. He criticized Poltarotzky for his articles in Literatyrna Ukraina, and said that it is too bad that he is given a forum. He compared Poltarotzky to certain emigre writers who have nothing good to say about the Ukrainian SSR. Dmyterko was the same as Poltarotzky. Subject had read the article by Pavlychko attacking Rachmany, but said that he would like to read something by Rachmany. Subject asked Source who would be in Coordinates volume two, but Source said he was not sure, but imagined that it would include Boychyk, Rybchak, Kuluma and other younger emigre poets. Subject asked where Burghart lived, where Koshelivetz lived and how old was Stechko.

9. Subject said that Vinnitchenko would be published in the USSR in 1971. He feels that this collection should contain not all his works, but a good sampling ranging from his youth till death. When asked about the rehabilitation of Hryshevsky, Subject did not comment.

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10. Subject brought up the topic of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet invasion. He commented that he felt that Dubcek, Husak, Svoboda and Smirkovsky were all Czech patriots. He gave rather standard replies about the invasion.

11. Subject told Source that the Kiev journal "Ranok" was looking for information to write an article about Ukrainian emigre youth, and he wondered if Source could get him some documentation. Subject asked Source if there was something comparable to "underground literature" being put out by Ukrainian students in New York. Source said that there are various publications being printed by students themselves which criticize the Ukrainian community and that he (source) would gladly give him some. Subject said that he would be writing this article himself.

12. A meeting was agreed to but not date or place was set. Subject said that he would get tickets to a Broadway show and he would then call Source and arrange the meeting.